

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 707

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS USUN 5247

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, XF

SUBJECT: U.S. STATEMENT AT CONCLUSION OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
DEBATE

1. FOLLOWING SC PRESIDENT'S READING OF CONSENSUS STATEMENT
(USUN 5196 (NOTAL) WITH DELETION OF "WHICH SHOULD COME TO AN END"
FROM PARA (1)), AT SC MEETING ON NOVEMBER 11, AMB SHERER
DELIVERED U.S. STATEMENT.

2. QUOTE MR. PRESIDENT, THE UNITED STATES HAS JOINED THE OTHER
MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN THE CONSENSUS STATEMENT
WHICH YOU HAVE READ BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THIS STATEMENT AFFIRMS
SEVERAL IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES IN REGARD TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.
FIRST IS THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION APPLIES
TO THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. UNDER
THIS CONVENTION AND UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW THE OCCUPYING
POWER HAS RIGHTS AS WELL AS RESPONSIBILITIES. SECONDLY, WE
HAVE SUPPORTED AND CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PRINCIPLE THAT
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PERSONS DISPLACED IN THE 1967 WAR SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO RETURN

TO THEIR PLACES OF HABITATION AT THE TIME OF THAT WAR.
FINALLY, WE WELCOME THE CONCERN IN THIS STATEMENT FOR THE SANCTITY
OF THE HOLY PLACES WHICH WE CONSIDER TO BE A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE
AND IMPORTANT MATTER.

WHILE MY GOVERNMENT HAS ASSOCIATED ITSELF WITH THE RESULTS
OF THIS DEBATE, I MUST IN CANDOR OBSERVE THAT THE CRITICISM OF
ISRAEL WHICH DOMINATED THESE PROCEEDINGS HAS BEEN LARGELY
ONE-SIDED AND EXCESSIVE. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE AS REGARDS THE
QUESTION OF ACCESS TO THE HOLY SITES, SPECIFICALLY THE BURIAL
SITE OF THE PATRIARCH ABRAHAM.

WE AGREE WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
THAT THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION, SPECIFICALLY ARTICLE 27,
PROVIDES THE STANDARD FOR MEASURING ISRAELI CONDUCT IN THIS MATTER.
WE

ARE ALSO FULLY AWARE THAT IN RECENT WEEKS THERE HAVE OCCURRED
DEPLORABLE ACTS OF DESECRATION AND VIOLENCE IN AND AROUND THIS
SITE WHICH IS HOLY TO MUSLIMS, JEWS AND CHRISTIANS ALIKE.
HOWEVER, IT IS ONLY FAIR AND PROPER TO POINT OUT THAT THE
ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS CONDEMNED AND OPPOSED THESE ACTIVITIES
AND HAS, MOST RECENTLY, BROUGHT CHARGES IN A MILITARY COURT
AGAINST A RATHER PROMINENT ISRAELI CITIZEN FOR HIS ROLE IN THEM.
THE QUESTION OF ACCESS TO AND WORSHIP WITHIN THIS SITE IS A
PARTICULARLY COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT MATTER, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT
THE OCCUPYING AUTHORITIES HAVE ACTED IN GOOD FAITH TO PROTECT
AND PRESERVE THE RELIGIOUS RIGHTS SET FORTH IN THE FOURTH
GENEVA CONVENTION. THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT OF CONSENSUS SPEAKS
OF THE DANGER TO PEACE OF ANY ACT OF PROFANATION OF THE HOLY
PLACES. THIS WE TAKE TO MEAN ANY ACT BY THE POPULATION, THE
LOCAL AUTHORITIES OR THE OCCUPYING POWER.

IN CLOSING, I WOULD LIKE TO OBSERVE THAT IN THIS DEBATE
WE HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH THE SYMPTOMS OF THE PROBLEM RATHER
THAN WITH THE PROBLEM ITSELF. THE CONDITIONS WE HAVE BEEN DIS-
CUSSING WILL BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF
THE NEGOTIATION OF A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN ACCORDANCE WITH
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 WITH RESPECT TO WHICH
WE STAND BY ALL OF OUR PREVIOUS POSITIONS.

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THERE IS GOOD REASON TO HOPE THAT CONDITIONS IN THE MIDDLE
EAST HAVE IMPROVED TO THE POINT THAT RENEWED EFFORTS TOWARD SUCH
A SETTLEMENT WILL BE POSSIBLE. THE RECENT MEETING OF ARAB
LEADERS IN RIYADH AND CAIRO PROMISE TO CONTRIBUTE TO AN END TO
THE FIGHTING IN LEBANON AND TO THE PRESERVATION OF ITS
INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NATIONAL UNITY, TO
WHICH WE ATTACH THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE. MORE BROADLY, THE STATES-
MANSHIP DISPLAYED BY THE GOVERNMENTS PRINCIPALLY INVOLVED PROMISES

TO ESTABLISH THE CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE AND THE CONDITIONS
NECESSARY IF THERE IS TO BE PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLVING THE PROBLEMS
WHICH CONTINUE TO BESET THE MIDDLE EAST. UNQUOTE
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